

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB BULLETIN

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Web site: <http://www.edmontonstampclub.com>



Fall Stamp Market, Sept 14-15,
Lions Senior Centre, 11113 - 113 Street. see page 8.

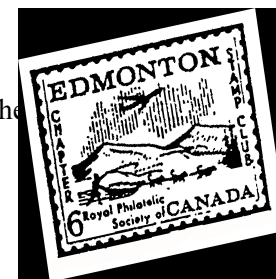
Regular meetings: Sep 9, Oct 7 & 21, Nov 4 & 18, Dec 2 & 16
St. Joseph High School Cafeteria, 10830 - 109 Street, 6:30 pm

Editor: Alan Meech

The Edmonton Stamp Club

The Edmonton Stamp Club dates back to 1912. The Club is Life Chapter #6 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and Chapter #680 of the American Philatelic Society.

The editor welcomes communications of all kinds—letters, comment and articles. These may be forwarded to Box 399, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2J6 or ameech@telusplanet.net. □



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Greetings, Philatelists!

September is around the corner, and I have been reminded of my commitment to have a few paragraphs ready before the month even begins. Whoa! Did this month ever race by in a hurry. Between vacation time at three different music festivals and an increase in work hours because of an increase in work orders, I have neglected not only the back deck repairs but also this all-important call back to our "oasis" at St. Joseph High School. Yes, the Edmonton Stamp Club 2013-2014 year begins with the Annual General Meeting on September 9, 2013 at St. Joseph High School cafeteria.

Free parking has been arranged in the north lot and the secure main entrance awaits us on the south-east corner of the school. It will be our only club meeting in that month because of the dealers' bourse being held during the third weekend of September (more on that later). Please plan to attend so that we may see you again after the summer and so that we can begin our new year with your company.

I am sure Fred Tauber will be there with a fresh batch of cookies, a few pots of coffee, and a ton of stories for you to enjoy. Rob Schutte will be in Europe on that date so you will see me at the entrance table ready, willing and able to accept any outstanding dues for the new philatelic year. Have you ever wondered why we have so many life members? Because they realized early on what a wonderful deal they were getting for only \$25 each year. Many of them even voluntarily continue to pay their dues as a way of supporting this club we have. No, we do not plan to ask for an increase in dues this year so you will be able to budget more for our auctions.

(continued on p. xx)

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Ice and Sun

Even as winter seemed never to end, this past February marked an anniversary that makes the cold months truly worthwhile—25 years of Jamaican bobsledding.

It was at the Calgary Olympics back in 1988 that the world was first introduced to the surprise from this Caribbean island nation when four of its sons hopped onto a metal rocket and hurtled down that icy southern Albertan track at truly breakneck speeds. Although in their final run at the games they crashed, overturning while still at high speed, the troupe proved they belonged in a sport usually reserved for the cold north or south.

The 1988 team was honoured by their homeland with a set of four stamps. The set consisted of two se-tenant pairs, depicting the 2-man and 4-man bobsleds and the four members of the team.

Despite their crash at the Calgary games, that 1988 team also proved that they were not done as a bobsledding force: Subsequent Jamaican bobsleigh teams appeared at the Olympics in 1992, then again in 1994



where their 14th place finish was good enough to beat the USA, Russia, Australia, France and one of the Italian sleds.

The Jamaican bobsledders took the Gold Medal at the Monaco World Push Championships in 2000, and then the two-man team at the Salt Lake Olympics broke both the track record and the Olympic push-start record.

Although the Jamaicans did not qualify for 2006 or 2010, Canada can be thankful for such talented Jamaican-born athletes as one of the members from the Salt Lake Jamaican bobsled team went on to win both Silver and Bronze Olympic medals at those 2006 and 2010 games, while sledding for his adopted home of Canada. □

Edward Neehall

Greetings, Philatelists (continued from page 3)

We're happy to thank Life Member Fred Russell for an extremely generous cash donation to the club. It will be put to good use.

Speaking of auctions, have you ever considered what a wonderful service our club is offered by Roman Zrobok, Ed Dykstra, Bob Hyodo, Joe Liusz, Ken Kluchky, Ed Muxlow, Jim Miller and Bud Cutler?

These gentlemen contribute their time and efforts to ensure that the estate items are lotted and tastefully presented and that the members' lots are displayed, collected, organized and accounted for. Auction items are presented while bids are entertained. The successful bidders can be grateful that such a first-class service is given to our club so freely by such generous people. Where else can the world of stamps come to you and you decide what you would like to pay for the gems you choose?

Payment? Oh yes, let us not forget Jim Lockau who toils with all the numbers, records, cheques, coins and bills that these auctions generate as well as the unsold lots that don't appeal to anyone that particular evening. Keeping track of lots, buyers and sellers, estate remunerations, bank statement, and anything else relating to cash falls in Jim's lap. I am sure he will be there on September 9 and you can thank him personally for the fine job he does.

Carol Warren will be there with her boxes of circuit books and she will also offer you a world of choices for very little, or for a lot, as you

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so choose. Keith Spencer will certainly arrive, probably with his green and gold sweater, and regale us with colourful stories of collectors he has known or "heard about." Some people are natural raconteurs and aren't we fortunate to have Keith in our midst. It isn't easy to present knowledge and entertain at the same time but I will always remember the Wanted post cards that showed a side of law enforcement that I had never heard of before. Need I give you more reasons to come to our first meeting?

You will probably receive a flyer advertising the Fall Stamp Market that Dwayne Miner is coordinating for the third weekend of September and you will likely see it advertised elsewhere in this Bulletin. The ESC Board decided to concentrate its efforts on the annual Spring Show so Dwayne and a number of other dealers have grabbed the opportunity to take over the Central Lions Hall (located at 114 Street and 111 Avenue) to showcase their wares. (Please note the change from our usual location!) We wish them every success and hope that every collector within reach of this letter will consider going to pay them a visit. Our philatelic community needs to hang on to all the good people it has and sometimes this means you have to actively support them. Please consider it because there will be only one club auction in September.

I'll end this call to the philatelic community with a large "Thank You!" to Richard Barnes for the most enjoyable Summer 1013 meeting that he organized at the Chateau Louis in July. Not only was he able to put together the space and the catering, he also organized over 300 lots that the members submitted for the auction.

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A few adjustments may be necessary for the upcoming Summer 2014 meeting, but the best news is that Richard has agreed, health and "better half" willing, to do it all again next year. Wonderful, Richard! Now, if I can only talk you into running for President...

All the best, everyone! My alarm clock will ring in seven hours (remember that increase in work hours I had mentioned before?) and I promised myself that Alan will get this before I go to bed. Whether or not it will find an audience is up to you, the philatelic reader, but for now, I'm going to call it quits. I hope we can see you on September 9th, Please consider it. □

President Pete

Dues

Annual dues for the Edmonton Stamp Club for the 2013 - 2014 club year are payable on June 30, 2013. The costs remain unchanged: \$25 for individual membership and \$35 for family membership. Please make your payment to Rob Schutte, Membership Secretary, at the first opportunity, or, send a cheque made out to the Edmonton Stamp Club to the mailing address shown on the front cover of this Bulletin.

**Fall Stamp Market by
R. D. Miner Philatelics**
on behalf of the Edmonton Stamp Club.

Date: September 14 - 15, 2013

Place: Lions Senior Centre, 11113 - 113 Street

Hours: Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm

usual dealers in attendance

Azerbaijan

Why am I interested in Azerbaijan? This small country was once part of Persia prior to the imperial Russian absorption of this region. Historically, it fits into the dramatic and bloody events arising from the political decisions following World War I. On November 7, 1917, Russia and the Ottoman Empire signed the Armistice of Erzincan. The Russian Provisional Government in St. Petersburg was no longer able to govern or to defend the Caucasus region.

The Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic (TDFR) came into existence on 24 February 1918 and attempted to govern. Immediately there were problems caused by ethnic factions, religion and—most difficult—Soviet influence in Baku, which was the major city and economic hub of the region. To protect Azerbaijani interests within the Republic, an Azerbaijani National Council was formed on 26 May 1918. At the city of Ganja, on 17 December 1918, following the collapse of the TDFR, the Council was replaced by a parliament. The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR) was formed. At that time, the Russian White Army was sitting on the borders of Armenia to the north. The newly formed republic of Georgia was to the north-east and Armenia to the east, while Turkey was in the south-east and Persia was to the south (See Fig. 1, Gandzha and Ganja are the same city). The ADR frittered away their military strength in fratricidal fighting with Georgia, and later with the particularly bitter Armenia-Azerbaijan War. The Soviet XI Red Army swept into the Caucasus region, taking the surrender of the ADR on 27 April 1920.



Fig. 2, 3. Moussavat issue from the first issue of Azerbaijan.

The next day, the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic (ASSR) was formed. A large-scale ground swell of revolt against this regime took place but it was quickly crushed, mainly because of pro-Soviet and anti-Muslim support by the Baku oilfield workers. The ASSR was forced into a union with Armenia and Georgia, to become the Transcaucasian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (TSFSR), on 12 March 1922. The TSFSR was absorbed into the Soviet Union in 1936. The country of Azerbaijan was reborn in 1992 after the fall of the Soviet Union.



Fig. 4. Hyperinflation overprint on the first issue.



Fig. 5, 6. Examples from the second issue of Azerbaijan.

The ASSR issued a second set of Azerbaijan stamps, Scott #15-20 (Fig. 5 & 6). The first and second issues of Azerbaijan stamps are well described in a series of articles in the

American Philatelist. I can readily ascertain if I have genuine stamps or forgeries. The forgeries

are again purported to be of Italian manufacture. When the Soviets took over control they captured the plates for the first set. They reprinted them in what appears to be large quantities. Where I personally have problems is identifying what is “thin white paper or grayish paper” used by the ADR and “grayish paper or thick yellow paper” used for the reprints of the ASSR. These are very subjective descriptions for the stamp papers. The white stamp papers I have are not very thin in my opinion, particularly when compared to some other Middle East stamps produced post World War I. The grayish paper stamps are causing me grief. The thick yellowish paper of ASSR reprints compare nicely to the later Azerbaijan stamps.

Of all the stamps I have checked to see if they are ADR or ASSR stamps, all but one has been from the genuine plates. A computer site (www.stampcollectingblog.com/stamps-of-azerbaijan.php) refers to the Scott design A#, #6, 7 and 8 as having the design in the left side of these



Fig. 7. "Reverse design"



Fig 8. Correct design

stamps being reversed in some of the Soviet reprints. Fig 7 is what this site states is a reverse design. Not that this is the design displayed in the Scott catalogue. Fig 8 is stated to be the correct design. Has anyone a 2r stamp original or reprint with what this site states is a correct design?

The ASSR, in addition to the 15 postage stamps, issued a two-stamp



Fig 9. Semi-postal



Fig 10. Semi-postal

semi-postal set (Fig 9-10). Again, the *American Philatelist* has good descriptions comparing genuine and forgeries of the semi-postal stamps. My experience with the semi-postals is that they are 90% forgeries.

The 76 ASSR and Baku Province stamps are all overprints of the original two sets of Azerbaijan stamps.



Fig 11. Soviet hyperinflation type.

This overprinting reflected the chaos resulting from inept Soviet fiscal management, which resulted in hyperinflation and revaluation of the currency. (Fig. 11) The hyperinflation in Germany and most of Eastern Europe post World War I makes an interesting comparison to Russia. In the Soviet Union the causes were different from those in western Europe, yet the results for the common man were similar.

I do not know of any reference material that differentiates between the genuine overprinted stamps of 1922 and the forgeries. Has any member any suggestions where such a reference might be found? Undoubtedly old stocks of stamps were used up to make overprints. However, was it necessary to reprint stamps for overprinting? Has anyone seen stamp production numbers for Azerbaijan for 1919-1922?

Scott lists the stamps issued in 1922 for Baku Province at the end of the Azerbaijan section. I have not been able to find any information about Baku Province. Can any member provide a suggestion as to where I can begin a search? □

Richard T. Barnes

Fall Stamp Market

Sept 14-15, Lions Senior Centre, 11113 - 113 Street

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Just a Thought

Times have changed. Last weekend I held a potluck supper at my place. All the women started talking about the quality of my dishes (bought at a yard sale in Strathearn Heights neighbourhood) and how hard it is to get good dishes these days.

The next day, my girlfriend and I started talking about what a "hit" my dishes had been. Although not an actual collector, she and her mom used to go china shopping for fun. She told me that there used to be five shops here in Edmonton that she and her mom would go to. Now there are none. When she calls the numbers listed in the phone book she gets forwarded to Toronto.

My mom downsized recently and ended up throwing out the encyclopedia set she had. She had no room for it where she moved to, and no one wanted it.

I've tried to get my sister's kids into stamp collecting. No luck, as video games are more fun. My niece is quite the artist and has liked some of the stamps that I have sent her, but not enough to put them in the stockbook I gave her.

All of these used to be status symbols. It showed you had made it, that you were middle class and successful. The china cabinet in the dining room, the encyclopedia set in the living room and the stamp collection on the bedroom desk. All of these showed you had worked hard, valued your place in society, and wanted to preserve it and show it off.

Now people only seem to value cheap, poorly assembled electronic toys that we are ready to throw out as soon as there is the latest upgrade... □

Jeff Pacey

* * * * *

Make a note now to attend:

CALTAPEX 2013, October 18-21

Kerby Centre, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW

Publishers Clearing House and Stamps

Here is yet another "buyer beware" for stamps, courtesy of Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes. Even though the so-called "golden goose" has been dead for several decades, there are still a few who want to milk this hobby.

Here is an offer to buy some of the U.S. Civil War commemoratives from the 1960's plus a few others, in a special cardboard folder.

You can buy a fabulous colourful folder for about \$20.00 plus

postage and handling (another \$7) and score about seven stamps that catalogue about US \$2.00, and save about \$11.00! Nothing against the U.S. stamps but this deal makes me want to run behind a taxi to the next stamp club meeting and save even more than \$11.00!

I suppose the person who buys these stamps *and* wins the elusive (and I mean elusive) million dollars,

won't mind too much when they realize that they've been had on the stamps. Me, I will get a personal pie pan for the same money and win the million.

Still enjoying this hobby immensely in spite of all of this. □

Ed Dykstra

* * * * *

Medicine Hat Coin & Stamp Show, September 21, Higdon Hall, Stampede Grounds. Information from Ron Schmidt at 403-526-5158.

Seattle Philatelic Exhibition (SEAPEX) 2013, Tukwila Community Centre. For directions and other information, www.seapexshow.org.

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2013 - 14 Meeting Dates

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2013: Sep 9, Oct 7 & 21, Nov 4 & 18, Dec 2 & 16

2014: Jan 13 & 27, Feb 10 & 24, Mar 10 & 17, Apr 7 & 28

May 12 & 26, June 9

Edmonton Spring National Stamp Show, Mar 22 - 23, 2014

Edmonton BNAPS (British North America Philatelic Society) meets from time to time. All BNAPSers welcome. For information contact David Piercey at 437-2771 or Steven Friedenthal at 458-1233.

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